

Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly

Volume 17

Issue 12

Wednesday, August 2, 2023



Lamorinda Home Sales

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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Growing with kids

Photos Cynthia Brian



Agapanthus is poisonous. Instruct children to admire but don't eat.

By Cynthia Brian

"I rejoice when I see anyone, and especially children, inquiring about flowers, and wanting gardens of their own, and carefully working in them. For the love of gardening is a seed that once sown never dies, but always grows and grows to an enduring and ever-increasing source of happiness." ~ Gertrude Jekyll

How immensely fortunate I was to grow up on a farm where both parents were connected to the land and taught their five children to care for plants and animals. At a very young age, we were each given a small plot of earth to tend our very own gardens. We could plant whatever we wanted: fruit, vegetables, flowers, trees, or even just let the weeds take over. Whatever we decided to do, we were told that the success or failure of our plantings was 100% our responsibility. Each of us received this gift with gratitude and excitement as we each created our unique and individualized design.

The benefits of introducing children to gardening are numerous and life-enriching. Kids are inherently curious and soak up new information

like sponges. Gardening with children encourages a lifelong commitment to good environmental practices and stewardship of our earth. Since gardening is a hands-on experience, kids relish getting dirty and wet, and especially enjoy finding and touching slimy creatures. As their grown-up garden guides, we must teach safety in nature. We must point out that they must never nibble a leaf or flower without knowing if the plant is edible as many plants are poisonous or can cause allergic reactions. The same holds true for picking up frogs, snakes, lizards, spiders, or other critters. Educating our little ones about the natural world and how humans cohabit is part of our critical supervisory function.

Benefits of Gardening for Kids

Education: Besides learning sustainable practices, kids are close-up witnesses to the circle of life. We plant a seed or seedling. We water, fertilize, and prune the plant. It matures, flowers, and possibly bears fruit. Annuals die at the end of the season. Perennials return the following year. Evergreen shrubs and trees maintain their leaves while deciduous plants are barren in winter and re-leaf in spring. Botany, biology, and ecology are all evident in the garden.

Health: Outdoor play is essential to developing a healthy body and mind. Gardening is an outstanding exercise and it's playful. Pulling hoses, carrying rocks, weeding, raking, pushing wheelbarrows, hoeing, and planting all contribute to stronger muscles and stress-free minds.

Mental Well-Being: Mindfulness and tranquility are part of the gardening experience. Numerous studies have shown how anxiety and stress are reduced by spending even 20 minutes outdoors in nature.



... continued on Page D6

Strip rose cuttings of the thorns, then allow children to smell the fragrance.



JUST LISTED ~ 11 EL GAVILAN, ORINDA

Modern farmhouse with backyard tropical paradise, fresh interior finishes, and an additional detached approx. 700-square-foot flex space and bathroom that offers endless possibilities. The two-level home features approx. 2,769 sq. ft. of living space on a deep .65-acre lot with expansive front gardens and lawns and a gated entry.

Towering palms and oaks and a lush, refreshed landscape, lawn, and terraced garden create an inviting backyard sanctuary complete with a dramatic waterfall spilling into a sparkling pool and adjacent infinity-edged hot tub. Gather around the pool patio or on the deck and relish the peacefulness and the inspiring views.

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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	14	\$851,000	\$12,450,000
MORAGA	10	\$630,000	\$2,350,000
ORINDA	6	\$1,025,000	\$3,000,000

Home sales are compiled by Cal REsource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California REsource. Neither Cal REsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

LAFAYETTE

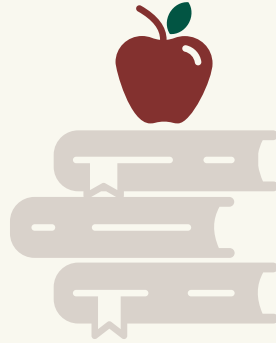
- 649 Byrdee Way, \$1,220,000, 5 Bdrms, 2136 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 06-12-23
- 922 Diablo Drive, \$1,575,000, 2 Bdrms, 2399 SqFt, 1942 YrBlt, 06-15-23,
Previous Sale: \$375,000, 10-30-02
- 4067 Happy Valley Road, \$8,250,000, 5 Bdrms, 5314 SqFt,
2010 YrBlt, 06-20-23
- 3972 Happy Valley Road, \$12,450,000, 6 Bdrms, 7651 SqFt,
2012 YrBlt, 06-22-23
- 917 Hough Avenue #10, \$851,000, 2 Bdrms, 1038 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 06-16-23,
Previous Sale: \$850,000, 06-02-22
- 3838 Palo Alto Drive, \$3,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 3440 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 06-14-23,
Previous Sale: \$3,725,000, 10-19-22
- 11 Reliez Valley Court, \$2,000,000, 5 Bdrms, 3232 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 06-12-23
- 3554 Springhill Road, \$3,300,000, 5 Bdrms, 5983 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 06-21-23
- 3229 Stanley Boulevard, \$1,550,000, 3 Bdrms, 1738 SqFt,
1943 YrBlt, 06-22-23, Previous Sale: \$500,000, 02-02-09
- 944 Stow Lane, \$1,703,500, 5 Bdrms, 2518 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 06-16-23
- 3370 Sweet Drive, \$1,377,000, 3 Bdrms, 1291 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 06-16-23,
Previous Sale: \$834,000, 08-18-16
- 1059 Via Roble, \$1,325,000, 3 Bdrms, 1660 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 06-12-23,
Previous Sale: \$992,500, 02-14-21
- 3385 West Terrace, \$2,152,000, 4 Bdrms, 2074 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 06-13-23,
Previous Sale: \$1,101,000, 06-03-15
- 3158 Withers Avenue, \$1,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 1927 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 06-20-23

MORAGA

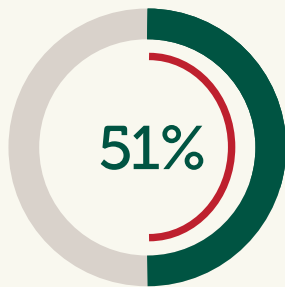
- 2129 Ascot Drive #11, \$630,000, 2 Bdrms, 1314 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 06-15-23,
Previous Sale: \$650,000, 04-21-21
- 24 Carr Drive, \$1,900,000, 5 Bdrms, 2084 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 06-16-23,
Previous Sale: \$1,236,000, 04-04-14
- 710 Crossbrook Drive, \$2,130,000, 4 Bdrms, 2465 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 06-22-23
- 131 Devin Drive, \$1,446,500, 3 Bdrms, 1449 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 06-13-23,
Previous Sale: \$869,000, 07-07-15
- 197 Fernwood Drive, \$2,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 2434 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 06-12-23
- 50 Gaywood Place, \$1,950,000, 3 Bdrms, 2162 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 06-21-23,
Previous Sale: \$240,000, 03-01-86
- 29 Kippy Court, \$2,340,000, 5 Bdrms, 2492 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 06-20-23,
Previous Sale: \$533,000, 06-01-90
- 282 Paseo Bernal, \$1,060,000, 3 Bdrms, 2044 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 06-16-23,
Previous Sale: \$915,000, 06-19-18
- 1917 Saint Andrews Drive, \$2,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2680 SqFt,
1978 YrBlt, 06-14-23
- 341 Tharp Drive, \$2,315,000, 4 Bdrms, 2360 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 06-23-23,
Previous Sale: \$1,260,000, 07-19-19

ORINDA

- 5 Bonita Lane, \$1,730,000, 3 Bdrms, 1987 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 06-16-23,
Previous Sale: \$788,500, 07-23-13
- 6 Cascade Lane, \$1,025,000, 2 Bdrms, 1308 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 06-13-23
- 7 Crescent Drive, \$1,625,000, 3 Bdrms, 1869 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 06-13-23,
Previous Sale: \$675,000, 05-24-12
- 7 Evans Place, \$2,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 2185 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 06-20-23,
Previous Sale: \$850,000, 07-28-04
- 17 West Hill Way, \$3,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 3006 SqFt, 2017 YrBlt, 06-20-23,
Previous Sale: \$2,152,500, 05-29-18
- 41 Sleepy Hollow Lane, \$1,598,000, 3 Bdrms, 1849 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 06-23-23



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COMPASS



Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Growing with kids



Jacobinia, known as the flamingo plant, is an easy plant for kids to propagate with cuttings.



Tomatoes are a rewarding vegetable for children to grow.



Raking leaves is great exercise for kids.

Photos Cynthia Brian

... continued from Page D1

Nutrition: If they grow it, they will eat it! If you were to ask a child where zucchini comes from, unless they are growing a garden, they will probably tell you that it comes from the grocery store. Once when I was doing a gardening demonstration for children, kids asked me why the iceberg lettuce on my demonstration plant wasn't wrapped in cellophane. A similar question arose when my chicken laid an egg during a petting zoo visit.

"What's that?" the child asked.

"An egg," I responded.

"What do you do with it?" the child retorted.

"You cook it and eat it. It's fresh," I answered.

"But it's not in a carton!" was the prompt and surprised look on the child's face.

We need to teach children about where our food comes from as well as the benefits and nutritional values of growing our own produce. In this way, they will establish healthy eating habits.

Life-Skills: Perhaps more than anything, gardening instills skills and qualities that will last a lifetime fostering cognitive development and problem-solving skills. Patience, creativity, curiosity, tolerance, generosity,

responsibility, pride, and respect are just a few of the virtues that we all learn in the garden. We can't rush a tomato. We must be patient and learn that delayed gratification reaps rewards. Designing a garden stimulates creativity and imagination. When we investigate the insect crawling on the artichoke, our curiosity is aroused. Tolerance of misshapen or imperfect crops is necessary. We are responsible for our plant's life by providing it the essentials it needs to survive – soil, sunlight, water, and food. When we harvest, we feel pride that we have succeeded and are generous by sharing the bounty. Respect, empathy, and compassion for all living things are grown in the garden. Also important, gardens teach us that mistakes are normal. Failure is fertilizer. When a plant dies, heap it on the compost pile and grow a new garden. Through gardening, children learn that there is no perfection, giving them the permission to take measured risks.

Environmental Awareness: Through caring for a garden, kids develop a deeper appreciation for nature. They better understand the impacts of their actions and how they can personally contribute to a greener, cleaner planet. When kids connect with nature, they will want to protect and conserve the environment for future generations. They will develop a lifelong appreciation for nature's beauty and grandeur.

... continued on next Page

A Few Safe and Simple Flowers to Grow with Kids

Sunflowers	Dahlia	Passionflower
Marigolds	Forget-Me-Not	Pansy
Cosmos	Geranium	Petunia
Clover	Hollyhock	Strawflower
Crocus	Lamb's Ear	Sweet pea
Black-eyed Susan	Lavender	Verbena
Cockscomb	Nasturtium	Zinnia

Easy Vegetables to Grow with Kids

Basil	Cucumber	Pumpkins
Beans	Dill	Radishes
Carrots	Lettuce	Zucchini
Cherry Tomatoes	Mint	Watermelon
Corn	Parsley	

... continued from Page D6

Growing with kids is a rewarding and educational experience. As children nurture plants, they discover happiness, satisfaction, and a love for the natural world that will stay with them throughout their lives. Most of all, through gardening, they grow a healthy body, mind, and spirit.

Although the vegetables and flowers that I planted as a child are long gone, my youngest brother's garden is still thriving. He had chosen to plant tropical seeds which grew into towering palms!

"Treat the Earth well. It was not given to us by our parents, but it is loaned to us by our children. We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors. We borrow it from our children." ~ Ancient Native American Proverb
Happy Gardening. Happy Growing with Kids!



Cynthia Brian and her helper amongst the pink bower vines.

For more gardening advice for all seasons, check out Growing with the Goddess Gardener at <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com/books>. Raised in the vineyards of Napa County, Cynthia Brian is a New York Times best-selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3. Tune into Cynthia's StarStyle® Radio Broadcast at www.StarStyleRadio.com. Her newest children's picture book, Family Forever, from the series, Stella Bella's Barnyard Adventures is available for PRE-ORDERS now at <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store>. Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com
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ORINDA

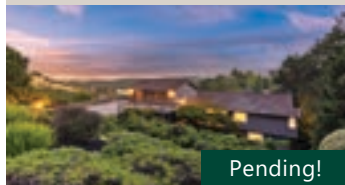


24 La Cuesta Road

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LAFAYETTE



3921 Quail Ridge Road

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LAFAYETTE



3445 Shangri-La Road

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LAFAYETTE



1987 Reliez Valley Road

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LAFAYETTE



3611 Lincoln Way

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LAFAYETTE



3390 Reliez Highland Road

Incredible home situated at the end of a private road features 4 bd/ 3 ba, wine room, work shop & a mostly level .58 acre lot. Serenity awaits!

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LAFAYETTE



406 Castello Road

Single story, 3 bd/ 2 ba Burton Valley Charm with an A+ location!

\$1,295,000

LAFAYETTE

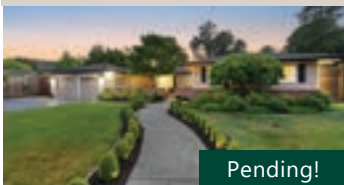


9 Redwood Circle

Situated down a private lane, surrounded by majestic redwood trees is this spectacular 5 bd/ 3 ba home!

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MORAGA



1254 Larch Ave

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MORAGA



163 Corliss Drive

Single-level, Ranch style home features 4 bd/ 2.5 ba in approx. 2228 sqft on a .27-acre level lot!

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MORAGA

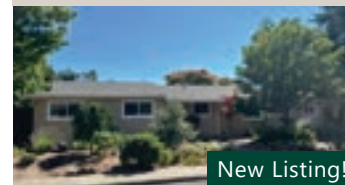


1996 Ascot Drive, Unit D

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